

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 24449 310815Z

20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SCCT-01 SAJ-01 /059 W

----- 049565

R 310527Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2755

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 24449

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY BANGKOK; INFO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE AUG 30 RPTD SECSTATE WASHDC

QUOTE

UDORN 5926

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJECT: ANTI-VIETNAMESE PROTESTS IN NORTHEAST

REF: UDORN 5859

1. PROTEST RALLIES DIRECTED AGAINST VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS
CONTINUED IN SAKHON NAKHON PROVINCE DURING WEEK OF AUGUST 23-30
BUT AT A REDUCED LEVEL AND WITHOUT DESTRUCTIVE VIOLENCE THAT HAD
HIGHLIGHTED PREVIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS. A PEACEFUL ANTI-VIETNAMESE
DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE AUGUST 28 IN KUMPHAWAPI DISTRICT TOWN,
UDORN THANI PROVINCE, MARKING FIRST APPEARANCE OF ANTI-VIETNAMESE
PROTESTORS IN THAT PROVINCE SINCE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST VIETNAMESE
IN NORTHEAST BEGAN JULY 21-25. DISTRICT OFFICER FROM SRI CHIENG
MAI DISTRICT, NONG KHAI PROVINCE, INFORMED CONSUL AUGUST 26 THAT
SEVERAL DAYS PREVIOUS HE HAD DISSUADED GROUP OF LOCAL RESIDENTS
FROM STAGING ANTI-VIETNAMESE MARCH IN DISTRICT CAPITAL BY PROMISING
TO INSURE BETTER ENFORCEMENT OF LOCAL REGULATIONS RESTRICTING
VIETNAMESE PARTICIPATION IN MARKETS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 24449 310815Z

2. CENTER OF ANTI-VIETNAMESE ACTIVITY HAS BEEN IN SAKHON NAKHON

PROVINCE CAPITAL TOWN WHERE HIGH SCHOOL YOUTHS HAVE BEEN ROAMING TOWN FOR NEARLY TWO WEEKS HOLDING SPORADIC PROTEST RALLIES AND HARASSING VIETNAMESE MERCHANTS. CONSULATE'S LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO TRAVELLED TO SAKHON NAKHON REPORTS THAT MEETING WITH GOVERNOR EVENING AUGUST 27 PROTESTORS REPORTEDLY PRESENTED THREE DEMANDS CALLING FOR A). RESUMPTION OF PROGRAM OF REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS TO VIETNAM, BEGUN IN 1959, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ?) IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS FROM TOWNS IN PROVINCE AND RELOCATION IN FORMER US ARMY ENGINEERING UNIT CAMP SOUTHEAST OF SAKHON NAKHON, UNTIL REPATRIATION PROCESS COMPLETE, AND C) RE-LOCATION OF VIETNAMESE VENDORS FROM MAIN MARKET IN PROVINCE CAPITAL TO MARKET ON OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.

4. GOVERNOR REPLIED THAT HE WOULD PASS ON FIRST TWO DEMANDS TO AUTHORITIES IN BANGKOK, ADDING THAT HE WOULD GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THIRD DEMAND WHEN CURRENT LEASES OF VIETNAMESE VENDORS TO OPERATE IN CENTRAL MARKET EXPIRE. THIS SEEMED TO SATISFY PROTESTORS WHO DISPERSED FOR EVENING AND WERE SEEN FOLLOWING DAY AUGUST 28 DISMANTLING PARACHUTE TENTS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT IN MING MUANG PARK WHICH HAS SERVED AS MAIN RALLYING PLACE FOR ANTI-VIETNAMESE PROTESTS.

5. UDORN DEMONSTRATION ECHOED DEMANDS OF SAKHON NAKHON PROTESTORS FOR RESTRICTIONS ON LIVING AREAS AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES OF VIETNAMESE WITH ADDITIONAL STIPULATION THAT GOVERNMENT WITHDRAW CITIZENSHIP OR ALIEN RESIDENT PERMITS FROM THOSE VIETNAMESE WHO HAVE OBTAINED THEM ILLEGALLY AND PUNISH LOCAL OFFICIALS WHO ASSISTED THEM SECURE SUCH DOCUMENTS.

6. VIETNAMESE MINORITY TO DATE HAS DISPLAYED REMARKABLE RESTRAINT IN FACE OF CONSIDERABLE VIOLENCE AND ABUSE DIRECTED AGAINST THEM. PRESS REPORT POLICE ARREST OF VIETNAMESE MALE IN MUKDAHAN DISTRICT TOWN, NAKHON PHANOM (NKP) PROVINCE, FOR ALLEGEDLY THROWING GRENADE INTO CROWD OF ANTI-VIETNAMESE PROTESTORS AUGUST 18 BUT THIS IS ONLY INDICATION OF VIETNAMESE RETALIATION BY FORCE THUS FAR. REPRESENTATIVES OF VIETNAMESE MINORITY HAVE, HOWEVER, LODGED OFFICIAL COMPLAINTS AGAINST PROTEST ACTIVITIES WITH POLICE AND CIVIL AUTHORITIES.

7. PRIEST WHO MINISTERS TO VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN UDORN THANI PROVINCE CAPITOL INFORMED CONSUL AUGUST 29 THAT CONCERN AMONG HIS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 24449 310815Z

PARISHIONERS OVER ANTI-VIETNAMESE PROTESTS IS RUNNING VERY HIGH BUT THAT MOST ARE PREPARED TO STICK IT OUT AND WANT TO REMAIN IN THAILAND IF POSSIBLE. HE NOTED THAT, AT SAME TIME, MAJORITY OF HIS FLOCK STILL LOOKS TO VIETNAM AS THEIR MOTHER COUNTRY AND THAT SOME CONFIDENTLY EXPECT HANOI TO "LIBERATE" NORTHEAST THAILAND DURING NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.

8. THAI POLICE AND SENIOR CIVIL AUTHORITIES APPEAR THIS PAST WEEK

TO BE MAKING A MORE CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORT THAN PREVIOUSLY TO DEFUSE ANTI-VIETNAMESE SENTIMENT. THEY HAVE MET WITH PROTESTORS TO HEAR THEIR DEMANDS WHILE AT SAME TIME STRONGLY WARNING THEM AGAINST ANY FUTURE VIOLENCE. THEY HAVE ALSO INCREASED POLICE PROTECTION FOR VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS.

9. NEVERTHELESS, WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION LINKING LOCAL OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF CHAT THAI PARTY, AND NAWAPNPN WITH ANTI-VIETNAMESE ACTIVITIES. IT IS DIFFICULT TO FULLY SUBSTANTIATE THESE REPORTS ALTHOUGH RECENT ACCOUNTS OF NAWAPHON INVOLVEMENT ARE RATHER PERSUASIVE.

10. APPARENT DISBANDING OF SAKHON NAKHON PROVINCE PROTEST GROUPS AUGUST 27-28 SUGGESTS POSSIBLE LULL IN ANTI-VIETNAMESE PROTESTS FOR TIME BEING, AT LEAST IN THAT SPOT. HOWEVER, WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED REPORTS FROM SEVERAL INFORMED SOURCES THAT LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST VIETNAMESE IN NA KAE DISTRICT, NKP PROVINCE HAVE BEEN PLANNED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AND COULD OCCUR AT ANY TIME. OUR IMPRESSION REMAINS, AS REPORTED REFTEL THAT ANTI-VIETNAMESE SENTIMENT IS RUNNING STRONG IN FOUR PROVINCES WHERE MAJORITY OF VIETNAMESE RESIDE, I.E., SAKHON NAKHON, NKP, UDORN THANI, AND NONG KHAI AND THAT DEMONSTRATED INTEREST BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN RESOLVING THIS ISSUE IS REQUIRED TO DETER FURTHER OUTBREAKS AGAINST VIETNAMESE. SIGNED FINNEY. UNQUOTE.
BURKE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO24449
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760329-1326
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976085/aaaaadlh.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 UDORN 5859
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTI-VIETNAMESE PROTESTS IN NORTHEAST
TAGS: PINT, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006